

MAPLE GROVE TRANSIT COMMISSION
City of Maple Grove
Meeting of January 31, 2012

MINUTES

Members Present: Rose Peterson, Terry Coss, Michelle Driessen, Jodi Carman Kortsha, Jaime Renner, and Teri Anderson.

Members Absent: Michelle Driessen.

Also Present: Mike Opatz – City of Maple Grove, Bill Patten-Midwest Paratransit, Colleen Swann-Metro Transit, and Doyne Parsons-Metro Transit.

Call to Order

Transit Commission Chair Rose Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Oath of Office

The following Transit Commissioners took the Oath of Office for a two-year term expiring 12/31/2013:

- Jodi Carman Kortsha - reappointed member
- Terry Coss - reappointed member
- Rose Peterson - reappointed member
- Teri Anderson - new member
- Jaime Renner - new member

Open Forum

No one from the public spoke during the open forum.

Approve Minutes

The Commission approved the meeting minutes November 29, 2011.

Discussion of Routes and Statistics

Opatz reviewed the monthly ridership summaries for November and December 2011 and the most recent daily ridership reports. Opatz also stated that Maple Grove Transit finished 2011 with 801,230 riders, which is a 6.5 percent increase from the 2010 ridership figure of 752,608. The 2011 ridership mark represents the 2nd highest annual ridership level attained by Maple Grove Transit with the record being 807,437 in 2008. The Parkway Station facility and new coach buses certainly contributed to this successful year.

The Commissioners gave updates regarding their commute and routes:

- Rose Peterson – Ridership on the first 782 a.m. trip is pretty decent, which surprises me that many people need to be to Minneapolis that early. The first two a.m. trips take the 610 detour and that works really well. Need to make sure all drivers get a copy of the Maple Grove Operators Guide so they know the details of our system. No major issues to report.
- Michelle Driessen – Absent
- Jodi Carman Kortsha – Been riding on and off due to being out of town. Noticed that the Route 788 ridership varies drastically with some days it being nearly a full shuttle bus to some days only one or two riders.
- Terry Coss – Some drivers override the master switch for the reading lights on the coach buses. Trip # 3 in the p.m. has a different driver assigned to it each day, drivers do not get to know their riders, pick-up locations, and stops as well as a more regularly assigned driver. On some of the buses, the “request stop” light does not stay and the driver misses the stop. Drivers need to use the bus microphone when calling out the cross streets. Exiting Crosswinds is continuing to be problematic and dangerous due to the flow and amount of traffic on Weaver Lake Road.
- Teri Anderson – No major issue to report all seems to be going well.
- Jaime Renner – All is going well on the 785 trips. Impressed with the level of ridership for a new facility. Curious to know if the coach buses are as wide as a standard transit bus.

Rider Survey Report

Opatz reminded the Commission that at the last meeting, the Federal Title VI regulations related to civil rights and equal access requires transit agencies to survey their customers on a periodic basis. The survey must discern how groups of different races, ethnicities and income level respond to the survey compared the survey responses as a whole.

Maple Grove Transit partnered with National Research Center, Inc. to conduct a web-based survey of riders. In early December, Maple Grove Transit emailed the survey link to all “rider alert” subscribers and distributed bus flyers on two different days. A total of 574 riders completed the survey, for an estimated response rate of 35%. The survey captured current rider behaviors, attitudes and service evaluations, as well as any suggestions for improvement.

The Commission discussed the Executive Summary and some of the open end responses. Opatz stated that the full survey report will be posted to the city website and the result will be helpful with service expansion and to attain capital funding for Phase 2 of Parkway Station.

Review Transit Award Nominations

The Commission reviewed the 2012 Transit Award Nominations received by riders. The Transit Commission voted to approve the following to receive the 2012 award:

- Brenda Lutzke (*Has not received an MGT Award in the past*)
- Marvin Hill (*Has not received an MGT Award in the past*)
- Milton Jones (*Has not received an MGT Award in the past*)
- Bruce Ekdahl (*Has not received an MGT Award in the past*)
- Ron Jones (*Has not received an MGT Award in the past*)
- Pao Xiong (*Has not received an MGT Award in the past*)
- Nora Kurkowski (*Has received MGT Award in 2004*)
- Wayne Dalida (*Has received MGT Award in 2010 and 2008*)

Scoping Booklet for Bottineau Transitway

Opatz stated that Hennepin County will hosted four open houses this month on the proposed Bottineau Transitway, a series of transit improvements planned for the 13-mile Bottineau Boulevard (County Road 81) corridor. The project is now in the scoping phase. This phase is required by the federal government to seek public feedback on the need for the project, alternatives under consideration and the proposed schedule. Opatz reviewed routing options outlined in scoping booklet. The Maple Grove City Council will likely submit some official comments on the project.

ADA Driver Monitoring

Opatz reviewed the ADA Driver Monitoring form that the Transit Commission assisted in completing this past December. At Opatz sought feedback from the Commission and ask if they were willing to complete the form in the future. The Commission stated the process went well and that they are willing to help in the future. Opatz stated that Metro Transit would like us to add driver seat belt use compliance to the form. The Commission discussed that it might be better to not add it to the form, but just look for that on an on-going basis.

New Bus Order for 2012

Opatz provided an update on the status of the 2012 bus order for six coach buses, three 40-foot buses, and three articulated buses. These are replacement buses for the 2000 Gillig 40-foot buses. The Commission then reviewed 14 fabric samples for the passengers and narrowed the options down to four.

Adjourn / Next Meeting

- Next Scheduled Regular Meeting: April 3, 2012
- Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.
- Minutes submitted by Mike Opatz, Transit Administrator.